



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland,

Our administration has made it a priority to stand in solidarity with the Asian American community, particularly amid the national rise in anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Confronting and defeating this challenge will require a strong partnership at the federal, state, and local levels. I strongly supported the passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (S.937) and was pleased to see this important piece of legislation signed into law back in May. Six months later, I am urging the Biden administration to move forward with the full implementation of the law and swiftly release the required guidance and available grant funding for states.

Maryland has led the nation with our proactive strategy to combat anti-Asian bias and violence. In March, I directed state law enforcement officials to increase enhanced visibility patrols across Maryland and encouraged victims and witnesses to report incidents to the state's Hate Crimes Hotline. I also called on federal and state prosecutors to more aggressively investigate alleged hate crimes.

In April, we announced the formation of the Anti-Asian American Hate Crimes Workgroup, an advisory group to address anti-Asian violence and discrimination, naming former U.S. Attorney Robert Hur to lead the statewide workgroup to assess needs and challenges and develop recommendations and strategies to address them.

This week, I announced a series of immediate actions to support Asian American students, businesses, and families based on the workgroup's recommendations in the following areas:

### Public Safety and Enforcement

- Updating hate and bias training for law enforcement agencies to include reporting of hate and bias incidents and crimes
- Designating a Maryland State Police commander to serve as a liaison for hate crimes and racially biased incidents, and launching a partnership between the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) to share data
- Encouraging state and local law enforcement agencies to prioritize diversity in recruiting and offering incentives for officers who are proficient in multiple languages
- Providing \$1 million in funding to provide devices with translation apps (i.e. Google Translate) for law enforcement and victims services organizations
- Calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to expedite guidance for the implementation of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act

### Community Resources

- Increasing Protecting Against Hate Crimes funding from \$3 million to \$5 million—a 67% increase—and directing the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to conduct aggressive outreach efforts regarding the availability of funding
- Making 211 Maryland a resource for reporting hate and bias incidents and providing information about services and resources in Asian languages
- Launching an online resource center, and publishing a guide for how to report hate crimes and incidents available in Asian languages
- Developing alternative reporting channels, including community organizations, nonprofits, and faith centers

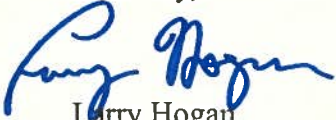
### Educators and Students

- Directing the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop resources for educators, parents, and students on how to identify and report hate and bias incidents
- Engaging with the Maryland State Department of Education on developing a Continuing Professional Development offering on Asian American history for teachers
- Working with the University System of Maryland to explore scholarships and fellowships through the Merrill College of Journalism to encourage more Asian American participation in journalism
- Provide education resources online for educators and members of the public

Maryland is proud to be an example for the rest of the country as we champion these critical efforts to assist and protect the Asian American community, and foster a culture of respect and inclusion. I respectfully request that the Justice Department expedite its release of guidance required by the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and promptly announce available funding for states.

While we remain committed to doing everything in our power at the state level to address the threat of anti-Asian hate, discrimination, and violence, we need our federal partners to move forward on implementing this law without delay.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan  
Governor

CC:

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin  
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger  
The Honorable Andy Harris  
The Honorable John Sarbanes  
The Honorable Anthony Brown  
The Honorable David Trone  
The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
The Honorable Jamie Raskin